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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**SACRAMENTO MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO HURRICANE KATRINA FRAUD**  
**AND TO LYING TO FEDERAL INVESTIGATORS**  
**ABOUT HIS FALSE DISASTER ASSISTANCE CLAIMS**

SACRAMENTO--United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that LAWRENCE H. WILLIAMS, 25, of Sacramento, California pled guilty to fraud and false statement charges before United States District Judge Garland E. Burrell, Jr.

These cases were investigated by the Department of Homeland Security Office of Inspector General and United States Postal Inspection Service.

In September 2005, Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales created the Hurricane Katrina Fraud Task Force, designed to deter, investigate, and prosecute disaster-related federal crimes such as charity fraud, identity theft, procurement fraud, and insurance fraud. The Hurricane Katrina Fraud Task Force-chaired by Assistant Attorney General Alice S. Fisher of the Criminal Division-includes the FBI, the United States Inspectors General community, the United States Secret Service, the United States Postal Inspection Service, the Executive Office for United States Attorneys, and others.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Michelle Rodriguez, who is prosecuting this case, WILLIAMS pled guilty to two counts of making false claims to an agency of the United States (the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)), two counts of theft of United States property, and to making a false statement to FEMA for emergency disaster aid. WILLIAMS also pled guilty to a single count of lying to special agents of the Department of Homeland Security Office of Inspector General about his false demand upon FEMA for emergency disaster money. WILLIAMS is alleged to have stolen \$7,553.76 of funds allocated for disaster relief victims.

WILLIAMS is scheduled to be sentenced on June 29, 2007 before Judge Burrell. WILLIAMS faces ten years of imprisonment for theft of United States property, five years of imprisonment for each false claim offense, and five years of imprisonment for each false statement offense. WILLIAMS is subject to a \$1,500,000 fine and a three year term of supervision. However, the actual sentence will be determined at the discretion of the court after consideration of the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, which take into account a number of variables, and any applicable statutory sentencing factors.

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